

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS - no amendments made

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented)

8. A cosmetic and/or dermatological preparation comprising a bile acid or salt thereof in an amount of about 0.01% to about 0.5% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation, wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, salts of mono- or divalent cations of elements from the transition groups, salts of mono- or divalent cations of elements from the lanthanides, salts of mono- or divalent cations of elements from the actinides, salts of ammonium (-NH_3), and salts of basic amino acids, wherein said bile acid is selected from the group consisting of dehydrocholic acid, lithocholic acid, cholic acid, glycocholic acid, taurocholic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid and taurochenodeoxycholic acid wherein the bile acid or salt thereof is in an encapsulated form selected from the group consisting of collagen matrices, cellulose encapsulations, gelatin, wax matrices, and liposomal encapsulations.

Claim 9 (previously presented)

9. The preparation according to Claim 8, further comprising cosmetic or dermatological auxiliaries, selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, UV-A or UV-B filter compounds, inorganic pigments, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 10-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (previously presented)

18. The preparation according to Claim 8, wherein the encapsulated form is in the form of a solution.

Claim 19 (previously presented)

19. A method for strengthening the barrier function of the skin that comprises applying the preparation according to Claim 8 to the skin.

Claim 20 (previously presented)

20. A method for strengthening the barrier function of the skin that comprises applying a barrier strengthening effective amount of a preparation of claim 8 to the skin.

Claim 21 (previously presented)

21. The preparation of claim 8, further comprising antioxidants in an amount of 1-10% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation.

Claim 22 (previously presented)

22. The preparation of claim 21, wherein said antioxidants are vitamin E and/or derivatives thereof in an amount of 0.001 – 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation.

Claim 23 (previously presented)

23. The preparation of claim 22, wherein said vitamin E and/or derivatives thereof is tocopheryl acetate.